(b) whether private traders are assisting in making available the desired production line; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No, Sir. On the contrary there is an increase in Value of Issues over the last three years and the trend is expected to continue during the current year also.

(b) and (c) It is not possible to carry out all the activities in-house and out sourcing from private industry whether necessary is resorted to particularly for raw materials and semi-finished/finished components.

Casualties during Kargil Operation

2154. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of casualties during Kargil operation, officers and other ranks separately;

(b) the number of officers and other ranks seriously injured separately; and

(c) the proportion of officers killed and seriously injured as compared with earlier encounters of similar nature with Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The number of Armed Forces personnel killed during the Kargil conflict is as follows:

	Army	Air Force	Total
Officers	26	3	29
Other ranks	493	2	495

(b) The number seriously injured is as follows:

Officers	62	Nil	62
Other Ranks	1287	Nil	1287

(c) No meaningful comparison of the casualties of the Kargil conflict with those of the wars with Pakistan in 1947-48, 1965 and 1971 is possible, as the intensity, duration and the Armed Forces personnel deployed in these wars were different.

Pending of Pension Cases of Soldiers

†2155. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of pending cases for pension of disabled, retired and dead soldiers of Indian Defence Forces, as on 30th November, 1999; pension office-wise;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) the break-up of such cases with regard to soldiers and officers of Navy, Army and Air Force, respectively; and

(c) the details of action being taken for disposal of these cases within a time limit?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The number and categorywise details of cases relating to Disability Pension, Retiring/ Service Pension and Family Pension in respect of Navy, Army, and Air Force personnel pending as on 30.11.99 in the Offices of the Controller of Defence Accounts (CDA), (Navy), Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (PCDA) (Pension), and Controller of Defence Accounts (CDA) (Air force) areas under:—

	CDA (Navy)'s office Navy		PCDA(P)'s Office* Army		CDA(AF)'s office Air Force	
	Officers	Sailors	Officers	Other Ranks	Officers	Airmen
1. Disability Pension	Nil	Nil	Nil	Army-1775	Nil	2
				Navy-34		
				AF-122		
				Total-1931		
2. Retiring/Service Pension	Nil	Nil	7	295	Nil	598
3. Family Pension	Nil	Nil	Nil	Army-1027	Nil	2
				Navy-Nil		
				AF-29		
				Total-1056		

* PCDA(P) apart from dealing with pension cases pertaining to Army, also adjudicates the disability and family pension cases of Navy and Airforce.

The cases as mentioned above are of recent origin and are under different stages of consideration/adjudication. As per the pervailing instructions, claims relating to Disability Pension and Family Pension which involve adjudication are settled/Pension Payment Order (PPO) issued by the above mentioned offices within sixty days and claims relating to Retiring/Service pension are settled/PPO issued within thirty days of their receipt, if found complete in all respects.

DPG Meeting between India and US

2156. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that very recently a Defence Policy Group (DPG) meeting was held in Washington between India and US; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the meting?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.